

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 6, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Katherine Beckett, Isabel Bussarakum, Alejandra Gonza, David Lujano, Michael Mitchell, Catherine Moore, Andrea Negrete, Greg Ramirez, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Phone: Marsha Mavunkel

Commissioners Absent: Nika Dahlbacka, Marty Penner, Christina Ygonia

SOCR Staff Present: Michael Chin, Felicia Yearwood

Guest Speakers: Angelissa Savino

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: November, 2012 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report:

- Two reasonable cause cases: hair cut price differentials, service animals in shelter; decline in number of closed cases; cases are aging beyond goals; fewer appeals and fewer remands
- Sixty three percent of cases closed with a "no cause" finding; 14% settled: total damages awards of \$65,000.
- Twenty five PSST technical assistance letters, 24 PSST matters resolved
- City Auditor will audit SOCR; report due in June 2013
- Developing checklists and standardizing prima facie elements
- Part time business liaison starting July 2013 to focus on outreach

Guest Speaker: Angelissa Savino

- UW Advocacy clinic working on proposed "Youth Opportunities Act," which will limit availability of juvenile criminal records. The proposed legislation does not yet have sponsors in the State Legislature.
- Seeking support from the Commission and assistance with legislative strategy

Committee and Work Group Reports

Coal Transport

MOTION: To issue testimony and a resolution calling for the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement to be comprehensive and to include a human rights analysis. **ACTION: PASSED**

Police Accountability

- one hundred people applied for fifteen seats on the Community Police Commission
- SPD must develop a timeline for reform
- The Monitor will release a Monitoring Plan in February; seeks SHRC input
- Nika will set up a meeting with Peter Ehrlichman of the Monitoring Team

Human Rights Day

MOTION: To dedicate the balance of SHRC 2013 funds toward Human Rights Day. **ACTION: PASSED**

Annual Report

- Andrea Negrete has created a draft 2012 Annual Report and will distribute

Secure Communities

- Greg Ramirez, Andrea Negrete, and Jennifer Yogi will follow up with One America, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, and Latino Advocacy

Native Mascots

MOTION: To ratify the executive committee resolution opposing Native American mascots. **ACTION: PASSED**

2013 Work Plan

- Felicia Yearwood will distribute draft 2013 work plan via email
- Commissioners are asked to review and comment

Appeals

- Greg Ramirez, Jessica Andrade, and Chris Stearns will serve on December panel

Death Penalty

- Washington Coalition Against the Death Penalty seeks a formal endorsement of the campaign (see August 2, 2012 minutes)
- David Lujano has previously testified against the death penalty
- Felicia Yearwood will determine whether the death penalty is on the City's 2013 legislative agenda

UW Students

- Katherine Beckett will meet with four interns in early January

Law and Policy Analysis

- Chris Stearns met with Councilmembers Burgess and Clark to address their concerns regarding the proposed arrest and conviction records legislation
- Katherine Beckett and Jennifer Yogi met with coalition members regarding business community concerns

Human Rights City Resolution

- The resolution passed the City Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee
- The full Council will vote on Monday
- The Mayor is expected to sign

New Business

- None

Upcoming:

- Human Rights Day, 12/13/12, 6:00-8:00 p.m., City Hall
- Next Commission meeting: 1/3/13
- Martin Luther King Day: January 21st 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Garfield High School
 - workshop proposals requested